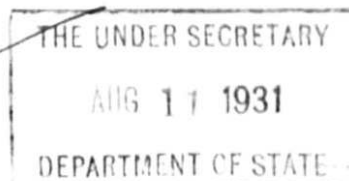




ROYAL ITALIAN EMBASSY
WASHINGTON

August 10, 1931.



My dear Mr. Castle,

Having noticed in the Sunday Supplement of the "New York American" of April 26, 1931 an article entitled "Trying to Wipe Out Arabia's Wicked Island of the Slaves" in which reference was made to slave traffic on the Island of Djebel Zigour in the Red Sea, near Eritrea, I deemed it opportune to communicate this article to Rome soon after its publication.

Following to this action, the matter was brought to the knowledge of the Governor of Eritrea, whose report on the subject has recently been received by the Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs which informed me of its substance, to the following effect.

It is first of all remarked that the statement made in the said article that slaves are embarked in a locality not far from the Assab Bay, is very vague and formulated in such a way as to induce misunderstanding. In fact, while it is true that the locality in question is not far from Assab it is also true that it lies precisely to the south of Ras Dumeira, that is, on territory of the French Somali-land.

It appears that such a traffic in slavery exists, being carried on by Moslem merchants, also along the Gimma-Anchor-Daue

His Excellency William R. Castle,
Acting Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

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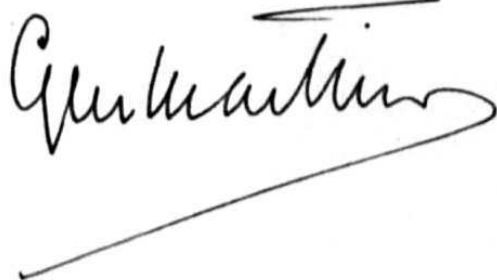
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line. From Daue', where the slaves are grouped together for traffic across the sea, they descend in the Aussa region, thence to be later clandestinely taken to a locality between Cape Sigian and Raheita in French Somaliland, and especially near a natural salina situated about ten kilometers to the South of Ras Dumeira. From this point attempts are made to ship them to the Arab coast where slavery is still prevalent. Against this slave trading the French authorities are said to conduct a vigorous campaign.

However, as far as Italy is concerned, it is absolutely to be excluded that slaves are allowed to sail from Eritrean Ports, where the close vigilance of the Italian Authorities would make such a practice utterly impossible.

Believe me, my dear Mr. Castle,

Very sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Guglielmo', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending from the bottom of the signature across the page.

August 17 1951.

My dear Mr. de Martino:

I wish to thank you for your letter of August 10 informing me of the substance of a report from the Governor of Eritrea with regard to the alleged traffic in slaves on the Island of Djebel Zigour in the Red Sea, near Eritrea.

Very sincerely yours,

W. R. CASTLE, JR.

His Excellency

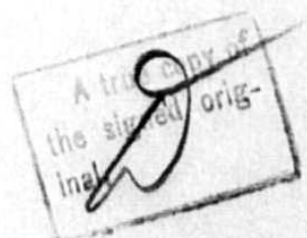
Nobile Giacomo de Martino,

Ambassador of Italy.

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Central File: Decimal File 865A.5048, Internal Affairs Of States, Economic Matters., Labor., Eritrea, Slavery. Compulsory Labor. Peonage., August 10, 1931 - August 17, 1931. August 10 - 17, 1931. MS European Colonialism in the Early 20th Century. National Archives (United States). Archives Unbound, link.gale.com%2Fapps%2Fdoc%2FSC5109731246%2FGDSC%3Fu%3Domni%26sid%3Dbookmark-GDSC. Accessed 18 June 2025.